Law vol. 14.

A True RELATION OF A cruel Robbery and Bloody MURTHER,

Committed on the Body of Mr. *John Talbot* late Curate of *Lainedone* in *Essex*, in a Garden by *Anna St. Clare* near *Shoreditch*) on Friday the 2. of *July* 1669. As he was going from *Grays-Inn* to his Lodging in *Bishops-gate-street*.

And the manner of the apprehension of

Geo. Roads,
Steven Eaton,
Hen. Pritchard, &
Sarah Swift,

} The wicked actors of the same,

As also an account of their arraignment, Conviction, Condemnation, and Execution.

With Allowance.

LONDON,
Printed for *Thomas Vere* at the Sign of the *Angel* without *Newgate*; and *John Clarke* at the *Bible and Harp* in *West-smith-field*, 1669.

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A True Relation of a cruel Robbery and bloody Murther committed on the Body of Mr. *John Talbot*, late Curate of *Lainedone* in *Essex*.

ON Friday the 2 of *July* 1669. Mr. *John Talbot* a Minister and Curate of *Lainedone*, near *Bilenkay* in *Essex*, being here in *London* about busines, occasioned by some differences that happened between him and his Parishioners was in the Afternoon of the same day followed from *Shoo-lane* to *Grayes-Inn-Lane*, by certain suspitious persons, which he conceived to be Bayliffs that might be imployed to arrest him, he having received Intelligence that some persons had proffered Forty shillings the *Monday* before to get it effected, whereupon he went into *Grays-Inn*-Walks, conceiving that to be a safe place, in regard there was so much Company, yet thither they followed him, and still kept their eyes on him, from thence he sent a Letter to a Friend in *Charter-house-Lane*, desiring his

Company to assist him in this present exigency, but he not being at home could not answer his expectation, then he went to another acquaintance at his Chamber in *Grays-Inn*, and inform'd him how he was beset and dog'd by these unknown persons, who he feared had some mischievous design against him. This Gentleman adviz'd him to stay there a while till they might be gone, and so he did for the space of two hours, and then supposing they might be all gone, went out the back way into the Fields intending directly for his lodging at the *White Swan* in *Bishops-gate-street*, but as he past upon the road, near *Annis the Cleer*, it being then about eleven of the Clock at night these persons appear'd to him again and pursu'd him, he indeavoured to escape from them by flight, there being then six men and one woman in Company, and got over into a Garden next adjoyning to the high-way, into which place they followed him, and there seiz'd upon him, and after some struggling together, when his strength was gone, and he unable to make any longer resistance they threw him down, and *Steven Eaton* was the first that stab'd him in his Throat, having also two Pieces of Tape in his Trowzes, in readiness to bind him, if there had been occasion.

But having desperately wounded him, they next fell to rifling of him, and took away his Money being about 22 *s.* with two rings, and most inhumanely stripping him of his cloaths, they left him as they thought for dead, lying in his Shirt and Drawers, with his Face upon the ground.

These bloody wretches having thus far seemingly prosper'd presently dispers'd themselves, but were restrained by an Almighty power and providence from making a final escape, for not long after it pleased God to open the Bottles of Heaven,

and

and to let fall as ſweet refreſhment on the Face of the Earth, ſo occaſionly ſevere vengeance on the heads of theſe miſcreants, for by reaſon of this ſudden and violent rain, the Brick-makers thereabouts were rowzed out of their beds, who in all haſt came out to cover their Bricks with ſtraw, and preſerve them as well as they could from ſpoil and damage.

And in doing this they found Mr. *Talbot* having lain in that ſad condition two or three hours bleeding on the ground without ſpeech or motion.

Notwithſtanding they laid his body upon one of their working Wheel-barrows, and carried him to *Shoreditch* where by the aid and direction of the Conſtable he was taken in at the Sign of the Star, and there, after they had given him ſome Strong-Water, and perceiving life to be in him, they put him into a Bed.

In the mean time another Officer with a guard went down to the place where they firſt found Mr. *Talbot*, and there ſearching up and down within a ſtones caſt they found the aforeſaid *Steven Eaton*, lying on the ground as if he had been aſleep, with ſome of Mr. *Talbots* cloaths and his knife all bloody not far from him. This being ſuſpition enough they immediately had him away to Mr. *Talbot* to ſee if he knew him, who no ſooner fixt his eyes upon him, but making ſigns for Pen, Ink, and Paper, (for he was not able to ſpeak) wrote, *This is one of my Bloody Enemies*, having ſecur'd him in the ſtocks they went out again, and in a Yard near the Dog-houſe they took *Sarah Swift* who alſo feigned her ſelf aſleep, but being awaked and ſearcht they found a knife in her boſom which at firſt ſhe ſaid, ſhe bought to cut a Whores Noſe off, but before the Juſtices ſhe ſaid ſhe found it that Morning, they likewiſe brought

her

her to Mr. *Talbot* who looking upon her wrote that, that was the bloody woman which was in the company, & he heard her companions call her *Sarah* when they were doing him the mischief, upon this information they were both had before a Justice of the Peace, who upon further examination committed them to *Newgate* on Saturday the third of *July*. 1669.

About ten of the clock the same day another of their confederates *Henry Prichard* by name, was found lying in a ditch and being observed several times to put up his head and look towards the place where the Robbery was committed: they questioned him what he lay there for, he answering for no hurt; they further enquired what he was, and where he lodged, he told them in *Cloath-fair*, but sending thither to know the truth of it, and it appearing that he had not lain in that place above ten dayes before, and being able to give no better account of himself, he also was committed to *New-gate* the same day.

Their other associate *George Roads* sales-man living in *Long-lane* was apprehended in this manner, he comming to *Newgate*, falls into discourse with some of the Prisoners that were of his acquaintance concerning the Murder and Robbery of a Minister and that *Steven Eaton* and *Sarah Swift* were imprisoned for the same, using some other suspitions speeches, insomuch that notice was taken of him, and being found to be but of an idle life and conversation, and very late out of his lodging that night the villany was acted, he also was apprehended and carried to Mr. *Talbot*, who stedfastly viewing him, wrote that he was one that dogged him up and down in *Grayes in lane*, and in the walkes, whereupon he was had before a Justice of the Peace, and being as little able to give an accompt of himself

as

as the others, he likewise was committed to *Newgate* the Monday following and it was observed in his passage thither spurning the ground he broke out into these speeches, I value my life no more then this dirt under my feet, but if I be hanged I will hang five more.

On Thursday after being the eight of *July* they were all four brought down to the Sessions house, where they were all found guilty, and the next day received sentence of death to be executed on them for the same.

All this time the Surgeons had hopes of Mr. *Talbots* recovery, but notwithstanding all means that could be used, on Sunday in the afternoon he fell into an extreame fit of bleeding and so continued till one of the clock next morning, about which time he dyed.

Now by this it is evidently aparent how uncharitable people are in their rash censuring of any man without a cause for how confidently was it reported that Mr. *Talbot* was formerly acquainted with *Sarrah Swift* and that he had been drinking (with that wicked company which wrought his distruction) both at the white Hart in *Old-street* and elsewhere, whereas *Sarah Swift* openly confest that she had never seen him before, and he himself confidently affirmed that he never came in any house after he came from *Grays Inn*, nay further he related upon his death bed that he never had drank any wine since he came from *Portugal*, where he was Chaplain to Colonel *Henry Pearsons* Regiment. One thing was observable in the committing of this horrid act, that whilst they were about it, the Girdiners wife about two of the clock in the morning hearing the Dog keep a tearing as if he would a broke his chain, she came down into the Garden to fetch a basket of Fruit to carry to market, which by all likely-hood was the cause why they got away

away and left his clothes behind them, after they had stript him to his shirt and drawers, for the Constable of *Shoreditch* having Intelligence from *Porter* the Gardener that some cloths was left in his garden, he presently went and took them away, where he found in his breeches pockets some writings, a pair of gloves, a pocket handkercheif, an almanack, and a leather purse with a half crown, and a groat, and a half penny in it.

I should be very much to blame if I should omit to give you an account how really careful the Officers of *Shoreditch* Parish were of Mr. *Talbot* during the time that he lay there wounded not suffering him to want any thing that was necessary, but really commiserating his sad condition, and to the utmost of their powers using all possible means for his recovery. But his butcherly, and bloody enemies had so far satisfi'd their cruelty, that they left him with his deaths wound past all recovery, for which cruel act three of them hath already suffered a shameful and an ignominious death but the fourth *Henry Prichard* by name is for the present mercifully repriev'd. I pray God this sad and lamentable example may be a means to prevent others from committing the like horrid crimes.

A List of the names of the Malefactors which were executed at *Tyburn* the 14*th*. of *July* 1669.

Steven Eaton. }
George Rodes, } *For Robbing and Murthering the Minister*
Sarah Swift. }

Ann Hall, } *For murthering their children.*
Eliza. Garrit. }

John Philips *A high way Man.*

Tho. Read. }
John Gooding }
Tho. Reeves } *For Burglary.*
Fran. Baker }
Grace Hawkings }
Cuthbert Allen. }

FINIS.